

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATIONIN THE SPECIFICATION:Page 9

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 15 through line 25 as follows:

*AB*  
10/534,798  
8/15/08

The assembled parts for casting are buried in casting sand (not shown). Molten metal having a prescribed composition is fed to the cavity of the mold 9 through the gating system. Where the part for casting contains an organic binder, the binder and the organic fiber thermally decompose and carbonize by the heat of the molten metal, but the strength required as a part for casting is maintained. Because the inorganic fiber suppresses thermal shrinkage of the part due to the thermal decomposition, the sprue part is prevented from cracking or flowing away together with the molten metal so that incorporation of casting sand and the like into the molten metal does not occur. After the casting mold is broken to take out the casting product, it is easy to remove the sprue part from the mold because the organic fiber has decomposed thermally.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 7 through line 18 as follows:

*AB*  
10/534,798  
8/5/08

A slurry shown below was converted into paper, dewatered, and dried to obtain base paper for paper tubing having a thickness of 1 mm and a basis weight of 440 g/m<sup>2</sup>. The base paper was converted into a paper tube in the manner described below. ~~The paper tube was impregnated with a binder and dried by heating to cure the binder as described below~~ to obtain a sprue (a part for casting) weighing about 30 g and having the physical properties shown below.